



# NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

## PRESS RELEASE

---

Telephone: (732) 323-2811  
(732) 323-2858  
Fax: (732) 323-7676

News Release No. 06-01  
Date: 9 June 2005  
[www.lakehurst.navy.mil](http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil)

Contact: Thomas Worsdale, Public Affairs Officer  
Patricia Odoardo, Public Affairs Officer

### **Grandson of original Tuskegee Airman to represent U.S.**

## **Navy Lakehurst airfield to test remote control model jet for world competition**

**- MEDIA should arrive at front gate at 10:30 AM, Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> -**

June 9, 2005, Lakehurst, NJ – It is almost 1,000 miles between Lakehurst, New Jersey and Tuskegee, Alabama, and it is more than 60 years since George Watson, Sr. first took flying lessons to become an Army Air Corps aviator, and one of the original Tuskegee Airmen. But on **Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**, he will once again step onto a military airfield at Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES) Lakehurst, NJ to see his grandson, Bryce Watson test fly his remote control model F-14 Tomcat jet that he has built and will fly in the upcoming World Jet Masters Competition in Budapest, Hungary in July 2005.

Now this is not your ordinary model airplane kit, nor is Bryce your ordinary model airplane enthusiast. Bryce Watson is a 767 pilot for United Airlines based out of JFK International

Airport in New York and he holds a degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Delaware State University. His model F-14 jet, which he has personally been building for the past year, can fly at speeds approaching 200 mph and has functional swept wings, ejection seats, parachutes, tail hook, canopy and lights. It also has an onboard GPS unit that downloads to a television screen for monitoring the flight up to two miles away.

Bryce will be taking his remote control F-14 for its maiden flight at Lakehurst in preparation for the upcoming world championship competition. He will fly it from the ground off the 12,000 ft. test runway at NAES Lakehurst with his grandfather George looking on.

In August 2004, Bryce Watson was selected to be one of the representatives on the United States Team that will compete in Budapest. They will compete against 34 other countries and over 140 pilots to determine who is the best in the world. This 11-day event, which brings in over 30,000 spectators, has been held in Thailand, South Africa and England and is held every two years. The United States has not competed in the past seven years. With a good showing at this event, the U.S. hopes to be chosen as the host for the 2007 event.

Bryce began flying remote control helicopters when he was 15 years old by selling his bike and buying a mail order helicopter and trying to fly it from his apartment complex patio. He eventually became proficient enough to teach others to fly them and then started taking “real” helicopter lessons himself in exchange for washing and cleaning helicopters at a local airport. His hobby (remote control flying) was put on the back burner while he attended college and began his career as a commercial airline pilot. About six years ago, Bryce reacquainted himself with model aviation and has won many awards around the country for his building and flying skills.

Representing the United States in the upcoming World Championships is a dream come true for Bryce, and one he'll share with his grandfather George, whose love for flying led him to those dusty airfields of Tuskegee, Alabama so many years ago and miles away to pursue his dream.

Sadly, Bryce's father George, Jr. passed away in May and Bryce is dedicating his aircraft and its flight in his memory. "My father and grandfather were both great influences on my decision to pursue aviation as a career, " said Bryce. "My dad spent many days encouraging me and watching me build my F-14 for this competition. I'll be flying it in his memory."

-30-

*Navy Lakehurst – "A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future"*